

E.

E A G

E has two sounds; long, as *scene*, and short, as *men*.
E is the most frequent vowel in the English language; for it not only is used like the rest in the beginning or end of words, but has the peculiar quality of lengthening the foregoing vowel, as *chine, cine; mine, mine; gips, gips; glide, glide; bride, bride; chine, chine; whip, whip; thin, thin; wide, wide; tan, tan; plume, plume*. Yet it sometimes occurs final, where yet the foregoing vowel is not lengthened; as *gone, knowledge, edge, give*. Anciently almost every word ended with *e*; as for *can, came*; for *year, year's*; for *great, grate*; for *need, need*; for *fact, facte*. It is probable that this *e* final had at first a soft sound, like the female *e* of the French; and that afterwards it was in poetry either mute or vocal, as the verse required, till at last it became universally silent.

Ea has the sound of *e* long; the *e* is commonly lengthened rather by the immediate addition of *a* than by the apposition of *e* to the end of the word; as *mean, mean; sell, sell; meat, meat; nit, nit*.

EACH, *pron.* [*ele*, Saxon; *ehh*, Dutch; *ihk*, Scottish.]
 1. Either of two.
 Though your orbs of different greatness be,
 Yet both are for each other's use dispos'd;
 His to inclose, and your's to be inclos'd.
Dryden.

2. Every one of any number. This sense is rare, except in poetry.
 Th' invention all admir'd, and each how he
 To be th' inventor mis'd.
Milton, b. vi.

Let each
 His adamant coat gird well, and each
 Fit well his helm.
Milton, b. vi.

By hunger, that each other creature tames,
 Thou art not to be harm'd, therefore not mov'd;
 Thy temperance invincible besides.
Milton's Paradise Reg.

Wife Plato said, the world with men was stor'd,
 That succour each to other might afford.
Denham.

To **EACH** the correspondent word is *other*, whether it be used of two, or of a greater number.
 'Tis said they eat each other.
Shakespeare's Macbeth.

Let each esteem other better than themselves.
Phil. ii. 3.

Loveliest of women! heaven is in thy soul;
 Beauty and virtue shine for ever round thee,
 Bright'ning each other! Thou art all divine!
Addis. Cato.

EAD, [*ead*, *ed*], in the compound, and *eadig* in the simple names, denotes happiness, or blessedness. Thus *Eadward* is a happy preserver; *Eadolph*, happy assistance; *Eadgar*, happy power; *Eadwin*, happy conqueror; which *Macarius Eadokenus, Fausta, Fortunatus, Felicinus*, &c. do in some measure resemble. *Ead* may also in some cases be derived from the Saxon *eah*, which signifies easy, gentle, mild.
Gib. Camden.

EAGER, *adj.* [*ezagor*, Saxon; *agere*, French.]
 1. Struck with desire; ardently wishing; keenly desirous; vehement in desire; hotly longing.
 Of action eager, and intent of thought,
 The chiefs your honourable danger sought.
Dryden's Ovid.

Eager to read the rest, Achates came.
Dryden's Æn.

With joy th' ambitious youth his mother heard,
 And eager for the journey soon prepar'd;
 He longs the world beneath him to survey,
 To guide the chariot, and to give the day.
Dryden.

Love inflam'd, and eager on his bliss,
 Smother'd her words.
Addis. Ovid's Metam. b. ii.

2. It is used sometimes with *of*, sometimes with *on* or *after* before the thing sought.
 3. Hot of disposition; vehement; ardent; impetuous.
 Apt as well to quicken the spirits as to allay that which is too eager.
Hooker, b. v. f. 38.

Nor do the eager clamours of disputants yield more relief to eclipsed truth, than did the sounding brass of old to the labouring moon.
Glavo. Scip. c. 19.

This is not a general character of women, but a reproof of some eager spirited gipsies.
L'Estrange.

Imperfect zeal is hot and eager, without knowledge.
Spratt.

Palemon replies,
 Eager his tone, and ardent were his eyes.
Dryden.

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A man, charged with a crime of which he thinks himself innocent, is apt to be too eager in his own defence.
Dryden.

4. Quick; busy; easily put in action.
 His Numidian genius
 Is well dispos'd to mischief, were he prompt
 And eager on it; but he must be spur'd.
Addis. Cato.

5. Sharp; fower; acid.
 With a sudden vigour it doth posset
 And curd, like eager droppings into milk,
 The thin and wholsome blood.
Shakespeare's Hamlet.

6. Keen; severe; biting.
 The air bites shrewdly; it is very cold.
 —It is a nipping and an eager air.
Shakespeare's Hamlet.

The resistance of bone to cold is greater than of flesh; for that the flesh shrinketh, but the bone resisteth, whereby the cold becometh more eager. *Bacon's Natural History, No. 688.*

7. Brittle; inflexible; not ductile. A cant word of artificers.
 Gold will be sometimes too eager, as artists call it, that it will as little endure the hammer as glass itself.
Lace.

EAGERLY, *adv.* [*from eager*.]
 1. With great ardour of desire; with impetuosity of inclination.
 To the holy war how fast and eagerly did men go, when the priest persuaded them that whosoever died in that expedition was a martyr?
 How eagerly he flew, when Europe's fate
 Did for the deed of future actions wait.
Stephens.

2. Ardently; hotly.
 Brutus gave the word too early,
 Who having some advantage on Octavius,
 Took it too eagerly; his soldiers fell to spoil,
 Whilst we by Anthony were all inclos'd.
Shak. Jul. Cesar.

3. Keenly; sharply.
 Abundance of rain froze too eagerly as it fell, that it seemed the depth of Winter had of a sudden been come in.
Knolls.

EAGERNESS, *n. f.* [*from eager*.]
 1. Keenness of desire; ardour of inclination.
 She knew her distance, and did angle for me,
 Madding my eagerness with her restraint.
Shakespeare.

Have you not seen, when whistled from the fist,
 Some falcon stoop'd at what her eye design'd,
 And with her eagerness, the quarry mis'd?
Dryden.

The eagerness and strong bent of the mind after knowledge, if not warily regulated, is often an hindrance to it.
Lace.

Detraction and obloquy are received with as much eagerness as wit and humour.
Addis. Freeholder.

Juba lives to catch
 That dear embrace, and to return it too,
 With mutual warmth and eagerness of love.
Addis. Cato.

His continued application to publick affairs divers him from those pleasures, which are pursued with eagerness by princes who have not the publick so much at heart.
Addis.

The things of this world, with whatever eagerness they engage our pursuit, leave us still empty and unsatisfied with their fruition.
Rogers's Sermon.

2. Impetuosity; vehemence; violence.
 It finds them in the eagerness and height of their devotion; they are speechless for the time that it continues, and prostrate and dead when it departs.
Dryden.

I'll kill thee with such eagerness of haste,
 As fends, let loose, would lay all nature waste.
Dryd. Aur.

EAGLE, *n. f.* [*agile*, French; *agula*, Latin; *callor*, Erse.]
 1. A bird of prey, which, as it is reported, renews its age when it grows old. But some think that this recovery of youth happens no otherwise in the eagle than in other birds, by casting their feathers every year in the moulting season, and having others in their room. It is also said not to drink at all, like other birds with sharp claws. It is given out, that when an eagle sees its young so well grown as to venture upon flying, it hovers over their nest, flutters with its wings, and excites them to imitate it, and take their flight; and when it sees them weary, or fearful, it takes and carries them upon its back. Eagles are said to be extremely sharp-sighted, and when they take flight, spring perpendicularly upward, with their eyes steadily fixed upon the sun, mounting till, by their distance, they disappear.
Difmay'd.

E A R

Difmay'd not this
 Our captains Macbeth and Banquo?
 —
 As sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion.
Shakespeare, Macbeth.

Draw forth the monsters of th' abyss profound,
 Or fetch th' aerial eagle to the ground.
Pope's Epi. on Man.

2. The standard of the ancient Romans.
 Arts still follow'd where Rome's eagles flew.
Pope.

EAGLE-EYED, *adj.* [*from eagle and eye*.]
 1. Sharp-sighted as an eagle.
 As he was rarely quick and peripetuous, so was he inwardly eagle-eyed, and perfectly versed in the humours of his subjects.
Howell's Vocal Postscript.

Every one is eagle-eyed to see
 Another's faults and his deformity.
Dryden's Pers. Sat. 4.

EAGLESPEED, *n. f.* [*eagle and speed*.]
 Swiftnels like that of an eagle.
 Abrupt, with eaglespeed the cut the sky,
 Instant invisible to mortal eye.
Pope's Odyssey, b. i.

EAGLESTONE, *n. f.* A stone said to be found at the entrance of the holes in which the eagles make their nests, and affirmed to have a particular virtue in defending the eagle's nest from thunder. The stones of this kind which are most valued are flat and blackish, and found, if shaken near the ear; a lesser stone being contained in the greater.
Cabnet.

The eaglestone contains, in a cavity within it, a small loose stone, which rattles when it is shaken; and every fossil, with a nucleus in it, has obtained the name. The sort of analogy that was supposed to be between a stone, thus containing another within it, or, as the fanciful writers express it, pregnant with another, and a woman big with child, led people to imagine that it must have great virtues and effects in accelerating or retarding delivery; so that, if tied to the arm of a woman with child, it prevents abortion; and if to the leg, it promotes delivery. It is pretended, that the eagles seek for these stones to lay in their nests, and that they cannot hatch their young without. On such idle and imaginary virtues was raised all the credit which this famous fossil possessed for many ages.
Hill's Materia Medica.

If you stop the holes of a hawk's bell it will make no ring, but a flat noise or rattle; and so doth the eites, or eaglestone, which hath a little stone within it. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

EAGLET, *n. f.* [*from eagle*.]
 A young eagle.
 This treason of his sons did the king express in an emblem, wherein was an eagle with three eaglets tying on her breast, and the fourth pecking at one of her eyes.
Davies.

EAGRE, *n. f.* [*ezger*, in Runic, is the ocean; *eggia*, in Islandick, is to agitate, to incite.] A tide swelling above another tide, observable in the river Severn.
 For as an eagle rides in triumph o'er the tide,
 The tyrant passions, hope and fear,
 Did in extremes appear,
 And flash'd upon the soul with equal force.
Dryden.

EALDERMAN, *n. f.* [*alderman*, Saxon.] The name of a Saxon magistrate; alderman.
EAME, *n. f.* [*eam*, Saxon; *eam*, Dutch.] Uncle: a word still used in the wilder parts of Staffordshire.
 Daughter, says she, fly, fly; behold, thy dame
 Forethows the treason of thy wretched came!
Fairfax.

EAR, *n. f.* [*earne*, Saxon; *ear*, Dutch.]
 1. The whole organ of audition or hearing.
 What fire is in my ears! Can this be true?
 Stand I condemn'd?
Shakespeare, Much Ado about Nothing.

His ears are open unto their cry.
Pf. xxxiv. 15.

Valsalva discovered some passages into the region of the ear drum; of mighty use, among others, to make discharges of bruises.
Derham's Physico-Theology.

2. That part of the ear that stands prominent.
 You have heard of the news abroad: I mean, the whisper'd ones; for they are yet but ear kissing arguments.
Sh. K. Lear.

His master shall bore his ear through with an awl.
Ex.

3. Power of judging of harmony; the sense of hearing.
 The head; or the person in familiar language.
 Their warlike force was fore weakened, the city beaten down about their ears, and most of them wounded.
Knolls.

Better pass over an affront from one scoundrel, than draw the whole herd about a man's ears.
L'Estrange.

Be not alarmed, as if all religion was falling about our ears.
Burnet's Theory.

5. The highest part of a man; the top.
 A cavalier was up to the ears in love with a very fine lady.
L'Estrange.

6. The privilege of being readily and kindly heard; favour.
 Aristippus was earnest suitor to Dionysius for some grant, who would give no ear to his suit: Aristippus fell at his feet, and then Dionysius granted it.
Bacon's Apophthegms.

They being told there was small hope of ease,
 Were willing at the first to give an ear
 To any thing that sounded liberty.
Ben. Johnson's Catiline.

If on a pillory, or near a throne,
 He gain his prince's ear, or lose his own.
Pope's Epistle.

E A R

7. Disposition to like or dislike what is heard; judgment; opinion; taste.
 He laid his sense closer, and in fewer words, according to the style and ear of those times.
Denham.

8. Any prominences from a larger body, raised for the sake of holding it.
 There are some vessels, which, if you offer to lift by the belly or bottom, you cannot lift them; but are soon removed, if you take them by the ears.
Taylor's Rule of Living Holy.

A quilted night-cap with one ear. *Congr. Way of the World.*
 A pot without an ear.
Swift.

9. The spike of corn; that part which contains the seeds.
 He delivereth to each of them a jewel, made in the figure of an ear of wheat, which they ever after wear.
Bacon.

The leaves on trees not more,
 Nor bearded ears in fields, nor sands upon the shore.
Dryd.

From several grains he had eighty stalks, with very large ears full of large corn.
Mortimer's Husbandry.

10. To fall together by the EARS. To fight; to scuffle; to quarrel. [*In Dutch earlogen*.] A familiar phrase.
 Poor naked men belaboured one another with shagged sticks, or dully fell together by the ears at fifty-cuffs.
Mare.

Fools go together by the ears, to have knaves run away with the flacks.
L'Estrange, Fab. 5.

All Asia now was by the ears.
 And gods beat up for volunteers.
Prior.

11. To set by the EARS. To make strife; to quarrel: in low language.
 A mean rascal sets others together by the ears without fighting himself.
L'Estrange, Fab. 67.

She used to carry tales from one to another, till she had set the neighbourhood together by the ears.
Arbutnot.

It is usual to set these poor animals by the ears. *Addis. Ptech.*

EARLESS, *adj.* [*from ear*.] Without any ears.
 Earless on high stood unabash'd Deioce,
 And Tutlin flagrant from the scourge below.
Pope's Dunc.

EARRING, *n. f.* [*ear and ring*.] Jewels set in a ring and worn at the ears; ornament of a woman's ear.
 With gold and silver they increase his store,
 And gave the precious earrings which they wore.
Sandys.

A lady bestowed earrings upon a favourite lamprey. *Arbutnot.*

EARSHOT, *n. f.* Reach of the ear; space within which words may be heard.
 Gomez, stand you out of earshot.—I have something to say to your wife in private.
Dryden's Spanish Fryar.

EARWAX, *n. f.* [*ear and wax*.] The crumen or exudation which issues from the inside of the ear.
 The ear being to stand open, because there was some danger that insects might creep in thereat; therefore hath nature fortified or plastered over the sides of the hole with earwax, to entangle any insects that should attempt to creep in there.
Ray on the Creation.

EARWIG, *n. f.* [*earne and wigge*, a grub, Saxon.] A sheath-winged insect, imagined to creep into the ear.
 Himself he on an earwig set;
 Yet scarce he on his back could get,
 So oft and high he did curvet.
Drayton's Nymphid.

Earrings and snails seldom infect timber. *Mortimer's Husband.*
 Doll never flies to cut her lace,
 Or throw cold water in her face,
 Because she heard a sudden drum,
 Or found an earwig in a plum.
Swift.

2. By way of reproach, a whisperer; a prying informer.
EARWITNESS, *n. f.* [*ear and witness*.] One who attests, or can attest any thing as heard by himself.
 All present were made earwitnesses, even of each particular branch of a common indictment.
Hooker, b. v. f. 36.

The histories of mankind, written by eye or earwitnesses, are built upon this principle.
Watt's Logic.

To **EAR**, *v. a.* [*ara*, Latin.] To plow; to till.
 He that ears my land spares my team, and gives me leave to enjoy the crop.
Shakespeare's All's well that ends well.

Menecrates and Menas, famous pirates,
 Make the sea serve them, which they ear and wound
 With keels of every kind.
Shakespeare, Ant. and Cleopatra.

Then we bring forth weeds,
 Make the sea serve them, which they ear and wound
 With keels of every kind.
Shakespeare, Ant. and Cleopatra.

When our quick mind lies still; and our ill, told us,
 Is as our earwig.
Shakespeare's Anthony and Cleopatra.

A rough valley, which is neither eared nor town.
Deur.

Five years, in the which there shall neither be eared nor harvest.
Gen. xlv. 6.

The field of love, with plow of virtue eared.
Fairfax.

To **EAR**, *v. n.* [*from ear*.] To shoot into ears.
EARRED, *adj.* [*from ear*.]
 1. Having ears, or organs of hearing.
 2. Having ears, or ripe corn.
 The covert of the thrice eared field
 Saw lately Ceres to her passion yield.
Pope's Odyssey, b. iv.

EARL, *n. f.* [*earl*, Saxon; *early*, Erse.] A title of nobility, anciently the highest of this nation, now the third.
 Thanes and kinsmen,
 Henceforth